(c) the action taken to rectify the situtation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. As per Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), Software Exports through STP Units during Financial Year 2006-07 are estimated to be about Rs. 1,30,000 Crores as compared to the Rs. 1,00,965 Crores in financial year 2005-06. The software export through STP units of last three years are as under:

Financial Year	Rupees in crores
2003–04	51458
2004-05	74019
2005-06	100965

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Improving ties with major powers

*618: SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the India-China-Russia trilateral framework, India has started discussion on a four-cornered dialogue between India, Japan the United States and Australia on upward spiral of improving ties with all major powers of the world;

(b) if so, whether India has decided to improve its ties with all its major partners to promote India's economic and commercial interest abroad;

(c) if so, to what extent these talks have been helpful and would help India among global powers; and

(d) whether India has sought the support ofJapan for gaining access to high-tech know-how and equipment for peaceful use of atomic energy?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) It is Government of India's policy to improve ties with all our major partners.

(d) During Prime Minister's visit to Tokyo in December 2006, the two countries shared the view that international civil nuclear energy cooperation should be enhanced through constructive approaches under appropriate IAEA safeguards. They will continue to discuss the international civil nuclear cooperation framework with respect to India.

Implementation of Bharat Nirman

*619. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister has decided to take steps to remove the bottlenecks that come in the way of timely implementation of Government's flagship programme *i.e.* Bharat Nirman and also to push for speedy environmental clearance for rural road projects and also changing the current fund flow arrangements of the irrigation programme; and

(b) if so, what are the concrete steps Prime Minister has taken particularly with six major components *i.e.* irrigation, roads, houses drinking water, electricity and telephone connectivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Committee on Rural Infrastructure constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister is monitoring the progress of all the Bharat Nirman programme components.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests have issued a notification in September 2006 dispensing with the requirement of environmental clearance for construction of rural roads in forest areas and Himalayan areas.

The guidelines for the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme was liberalized in December 2006 and Central assistance has been changed from Loan-Grant mix to only Central grants to states. The Central assistance is in the form of Central grant 90 per cent of project cost in Special category States, projects benefiting drought prone area, tribal areas and flood prone areas and 25 per cent in case of all other projects in Non Special Category States.